

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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FOLLOWING REPEAT COLOMBO 1275 ACTION SECSTATE INFO MANILA

DATED 22 APR 75

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 1275

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM, E.,)

SUBJ: TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA

MANILA PASS SECRETARY SIMON'S PARTY

1. IN MY JUDGMENT, SECRETARY SIMON'S APRIL 21-22 VISIT TO SRI LANKA WAS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL EXERCISE IN PERSONAL DIPLOMACY AND SUBSTANTIALLY ADVANCED U.S. INTERESTS IN SRI LANKA.

2. THE FIRST AMERICAN CABINET MEMBER TO VISIT COLOMBO IN ALMOST TWO DECADES, THE SECRETARY WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH IMMEDIATE AND CLOSE RAPPORT WITH PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE, WHO IS LIKELY TO REMAIN IN POWER FOR AT LEAST TWO MORE YEARS AND WHO PLACES GREAT STOCK IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. BY CONVEYING DIRECT ASSURANCES OF FORD ADMINISTRATION'S INTEREST IN WELFARE AND PROGRESS OF HER

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COUNTRY, HE WAS ABLE TO REINFORCE, UNDER A NEW

ADMINISTRATION, THE TOP-LEVEL TIES WHICH
MRS. BANDARANAIKE HAD DEVELOPED WITH NIXON
ADMINISTRATION. THESE TIES, IN MY VIEW, CAN BE
VALUABLE ASSET IN OUR RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA
AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUR EFFORTS TO HOLD
BANDARANAIKE GOVERNMENT ON MODERATE COURSE AS IT
PREPARES TO HOST NEXT YEAR'S NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT.

3. I AM VERY GREATFUL TO SECRETARY SIMON FOR
CHANGING HIS ORIGINAL SCHEDULE IN ORDER TO INCLUDE
SRI LANKA IN HIS ITINERARY.

VAN HOLLEN
UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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NNN

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